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January 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBJECT: Applicant: Ashton et al.
 Serial No: 10/676,556
 For: AN UPPER BUNDLE STEAM GENERATOR
 CLEANING, INSPECTION, AND REPAIR
 SYSTEM
 Group: 3749
 Docket No: FM-245J

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the subject application.

If for any reason this Preliminary Amendment is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts (781) 890-5678.

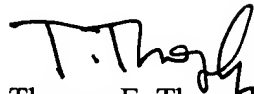
If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

Commissioner for Patents
January 23, 2004
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Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136

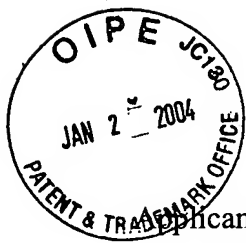
TET/ok
Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 23, 2004.



Olga Kadish



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ashton et al.
Serial No: 10/676,556
Filed: October 1, 2003
For: AN UPPER BUNDLE STEAM
GENERATOR CLEANING, INSPECTION,
AND REPAIR SYSTEM

Examiner:
Group: 3749
Docket No: FM-245J

Commissioner for Patents
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Olga Kadish

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.